

## Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 096500

O P 231450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1364

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T MANAMA 0538

EXDIS

KUWAIT PASS DOHA, MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, PFOR, US, BA

SUBJECT : RETENTION MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER, WHEN I CALLED ON HIM TODAY, INFORMED ME "OFFICIALLY" THAT GOB HAS DETERMINED IT WILL RESCIND NOTICE OF TERMINATION STATIONING AGREEMENT AND THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE MAY CONTINUE TO REMAIN STATIONED IN BAHRAIN. HE EMPHASIZED THIS HAD BEEN DIFFICULT DECISION IN WHICH ALL CABINET TOOK PART AND WAS TAKEN NOT WITHIN NARROW CONTEXT OF STATIONING AGREEMENT AND U.S. NAVY PRESENCE BUT IN WIDER VIEW OF BAHRAIN'S DESIRE FOR BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND HOPE FOR EVOLVING U.S. ROLE IN BAHRAIN AND GULF GENERALLY OVER NEXT GENERATION.

2. FONMIN STRESSED THIS MUST REMAIN "CONFIDENTIAL" UNDERSTANDING UNTIL CERTAIN PROBLEMS WORKED OUT: 1) MODALITIES - EXCHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL NOTES IN WHICH WE ACKNOWLEDGE TERMINATION NOTICE AND EXPRESS INTEREST IN GOB RECONSIDERATION IN VIEW CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES IN MIDDLE EAST; AND GOB REPLY INDICATING IT HAS

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RECONSIDERED AND IN EFFECT WITHDRAWS NOTICE, SUBJECT TO

RESOLUTION CERTAIN RELATED PROBLEMS, 2) "LEGAL QUESTIONS"  
- "MOST IMPORTANT" ISSUE OF LEGAL JURISDICTION PLUS GOB DESIRE  
TO SEE TERMINATION PROVISION OF AGREEMENT SHORTENED FROM ONE YEAR  
TO SIX MONTHS, 3) "ECONOMIC QUESTIONS" - BENEFITS, FOCUSED LARGELY  
ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AS EVIDENCE STRONGER FUTURE U.S.-BAHRAIN  
RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH DECISION TO PERMIT NAVY TO REMAIN IS BUT AN  
ASPECT. THIS COULD INCLUDE RENTAL FEES DIRECTLY RELATED TO NAVY  
PRESENCE BUT MORE IMPORTANT A U.S."TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" ROLE  
WHICH MUST NOT BE OSTENSIBLY TIED TO NAVY PRESENCE. ALSO  
QUESTION OF MIDEASTFORCE USE OF PIER SPACE AT MINA SULMAN.

3. FONMIN EMPHASIZED AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT AT PRESENT STAGE GOB  
DECISION MUST BE HANDLED IN CLOSEST CONFIDENTIALITY. HE SAID  
"LEGAL QUESTIONS" MUST BE WORKED OUT FIRST, WITH GREAT URGENCY,  
AND THEN WE MUST SORT OUT "ECONOMIC QUESTIONS". HE IS LOOKING  
TOWARD HAVING THIS BUSINESS ALL TIED UP BY END OF AUGUST,  
LEAVING SEPTEMBER FOR GOB EFFORT TO LOBBY TO CONVINCE OWN  
PEOPLE AND NEIGHBORING STATES THAT ITS DECISION IS IN BEST  
LONG TERM INTERESTS OF BAHRAIN, GULF, AND ARAB WORLD GENERALLY.

4. SEPTELS, LIMITED TO ADDEES WITH DIRECT INTEREST IN DETAILS,  
WILL EXPAND ON WHAT GOB WANTS AND HOW IT SEES NEGOTIATIONS  
DEVELOPING.

5. COMMENT: FROM FONMIN'S REMARKS IN HOUR LONG DISCUSSION IT  
MOST OBVIOUS PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S RECENT EFFORTS TOWARD  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE HAVE BEEN DECISIVE FACTOR IN TURNING GOB  
AROUND. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER CAREFUL NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
IT TO ME, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT APPROACHES BY IRAN AND SAUDI  
ARABIA HAVE ALSO PLAYED MOST HELPFUL ROLE IN MOVING GOB  
TO THIS DIFFICULT DECISION. IN VIEW OF EXTREME GOB  
SENSITIVITY ABOUT KEEPING DECISION CONFIDENTIAL AT THIS STAGE MUST  
REQUEST THAT ANY WELL DESERVED WORD OF APPRECIATION TO GOVERN-  
MENTS OF IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA STRESS THAT GOB NOT YET READY  
TO HAVE ITS DECISION KNOWN TO THIRD PARTIES, AT LEAST NOT THROUGH  
U.S. CHANNELS.

6. DEPT PASS DOD/ISA, CNO WASHDC, CINCUSNAVEUR.

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, US, BA  
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